

REMARKS

The specification has been revised to attend to the matters not entered from the Second Preliminary Amendment filed November 24, 2004.

The claims have been amended in a sincere attempt to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 102 and the second paragraph of 35 USC 112.

With respect to the formality rejections, "said" has been used in a number of locations, and the descriptor of "equivalent system" has been stricken from claim 5. The term "GMP" has been stricken from claim 11. The Examiner is informed that "GMP" stands for a propulsion motor group, and the expression has been eliminated to advance prosecution. Claim 1 has been rewritten so there is no double inclusion of the protection means.

The rejection of claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 11 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Sprafke '880 and the rejection of claims 1 to 11 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Adlam et al. '162, if applied to the claims as amended, are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been revised to specify that the reception structure is rotatably mounted in a horizontal direction on the support;

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independent claim 11 has also been amended to refer to a horizontal placement and, in the latter claim, the ability to move from the passive position to the active protection position over the openings in the vehicle. The structures shown in the references do not teach or suggest such an arrangement. Sprafke '880 shows a hatch cover 16 that is part of a rotatable plate 1 having viewing devices 3 fixed thereto. Rotation of plate 1 permits the driver to look outside the vehicle; see column 3, lines 54 to 56. Rotation of plate 1 can be carried out when needed, to let the hatch serve as an emergency exit; see column 4, lines 14 to 22. The device is intended to permit entry and exit at every turret position; see column 1, lines 56 to 62. The structure is not that of the roof protection device of the present claims.

The tank in Adlam et al. '162 is equipped with a lid 22 rotatable about a pivot shaft 36 to permit launch of a missile (or rocket) 24 stored in the tank and attached thereto by a cable 28. The structure is not that claimed here.

The rejection should be withdrawn.

The statement that none of the certified copies have been

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received is noted. The Examiner is reminded that this application is the national stage filing of a PCT application. A copy of the certified copy of the priority document is to be secured by the USRO from the International Bureau; applicant need not supply same.

The indication that the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 4, 2004 have been considered is noted.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 11 are in condition for allowance, and USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if any additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

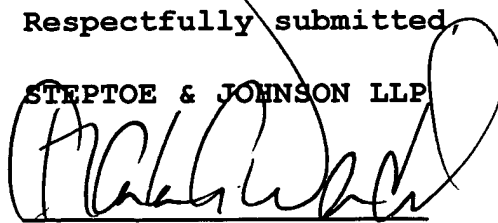
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Date: February 7, 2006

Old Attorney Docket: CELA:124
New Attorney Docket: 28971.0124

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Charles A. Wendel, is written over the printed name and firm name.

Charles A. Wendel
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